

CLAIM AMENDMENTS

Please cancel claims 17, 19-20, add new claims 35-40 and amend claims 3, 9, 11, and 30-32, as indicated below, such that after entry of the claim amendments the amended claims will read as follows:

1. (Cancelled) An apparatus for securing a floor covering to an underlying substrate, the apparatus comprising:
 - a button-like central base member adapted to be placed between the floor covering and the underlying substrate;
 - the central base member having an upper surface thereof adapted for engaging the floor covering, and a lower surface thereof adapted for attachment to the substrate.
2. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein at least one of the upper and lower surfaces includes one or more spikes extending therefrom, with at least one of the one or more spikes having one or more barbs extending therefrom for engaging at least one of the floor covering or the underlying substrate.
3. (Currently amended) An apparatus for securing a floor covering to an underlying substrate, such as a carpet or the like, where the underlying substrate includes a layer of pile extending upward from a backing, the apparatus comprising:
 - a substantially flat and planar central base member adapted to be placed between the floor covering and the underlying substrate;
 - the central base member having an upper surface thereof adapted for engaging the floor covering, and a lower surface thereof having a lone downwardly extending threaded spike that is one or more downwardly extending spikes that are adapted to pass completely through the layer of pile and threadably engage the backing of the underlying substrate for securing the apparatus to the underlying substrate as the central base member of the apparatus is rotated to screw the threaded spike through the backing.

4. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes that are adapted to engage the floor covering.

5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes an adhesive for bonding a lower surface of the floor covering to the upper surface of the central base member.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5, wherein the adhesive is covered by a removable protective membrane, that is that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

7. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 6, further comprising:
a plurality of hooks extending upward from the upper surface of the central base member; and
an anchor tab having a lower surface thereof including a plurality of mating hooks for engaging the hooks extending from the upper surface of the central base member, and an upper surface thereof including an adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

8. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 7, further comprising a removable protective membrane covering the adhesive on the anchor tab, that is that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

9. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 3, wherein the single downwardly extending threaded spike ~~at least one of the one or more downwardly extending spikes~~ is adapted for penetrating completely through the backing of the underlying substrate.

10. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes that are adapted to engage the floor covering.

11. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the backing of the underlying substrate defines a lower surface thereof, and the single downwardly extending threaded spike includes a thread on an outer surface thereof adapted at least one
~~of the one or more downwardly extending spikes includes a barb at a distal end thereof~~
for engaging the lower surface of the backing of the underlying substrate.

12. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes that are adapted to engage the floor covering.

13. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes an adhesive for bonding a lower surface of the floor covering to the upper surface of the central base member.

14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 11, wherein the adhesive is covered by a removable protective membrane, that is that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

15. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 14, further comprising:
a plurality of hooks extending upward from the upper surface of the central base member; and
an anchor tab having a lower surface thereof including a plurality of mating hooks for engaging the hooks extending from the upper surface of the central base member, and an upper surface thereof including an adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

16. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 15, further comprising a removable protective membrane covering the adhesive on the anchor tab, that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

17. (Cancelled) The apparatus of claim 9, wherein the backing of the underlying substrate defines a lower surface thereof, and the apparatus further comprises a single downwardly extending spike having a thread on an outer surface thereof for threadably engaging the lower surface of the backing of the underlying substrate.

18. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes that are adapted to engage the floor covering.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 17, further comprising:
a plurality of hooks extending upward from the upper surface of the central base member; and
an anchor tab having a lower surface thereof including a plurality of mating hooks for engaging the hooks extending from the upper surface of the central base member, and an upper surface thereof including an adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

22. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 21, further comprising a removable protective membrane covering the adhesive on the anchor tab, that is that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

23. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 1, wherein the underlying substrate is a smooth surface, and the lower surface of the central base member includes an adhesive for attaching the apparatus to the underlying substrate.

24. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising a removable protective membrane covering the adhesive on the lower surface of the central base member, that is that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment of the apparatus to the underlying substrate.

25. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes that are adapted to engage the floor covering.

26. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23, wherein the upper surface of the central base member includes an adhesive for bonding a lower surface of the floor covering to the upper surface of the central base member.

27. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 26, wherein the adhesive is covered by a removable protective membrane, that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

28. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 23, further comprising:
a plurality of hooks extending upward from the upper surface of the central base member; and
an anchor tab having a lower surface thereof including a plurality of mating hooks for engaging the hooks extending from the upper surface of the central base member, and an upper surface thereof including an adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

29. (Withdrawn) The apparatus of claim 28, further comprising a removable protective membrane, covering the adhesive on the anchor tab, that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

30. (Currently amended) An apparatus for securing a rug to an underlying carpet having a pile layer extending upward from a backing defining a lower surface thereof, the apparatus comprising:

a substantially flat and planar central base member adapted to be placed between the rug and the underlying carpet;

the central base member having an upper surface thereof adapted for engaging the rug, and a ~~single lone~~ downwardly extending threaded spike ~~[[is]]~~ adapted for penetrating completely through the pile layer and backing of the carpet and engaging the lower surface of the backing, to thereby fixedly attach the apparatus to the underlying carpet.

31. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the downwardly extending threaded spike includes helical thread on an outer surface ~~a barb at a distal end~~ thereof for engaging the lower surface of the backing of the carpet.

32. (Currently amended) The apparatus of claim 30, wherein:
the backing of the carpet is adapted to rest upon an upper surface of a carpet pad disposed between the carpet and a floor; and

the downwardly extending threaded spike has a length thereof configured for extending completely through the pile and backing of the carpet and partially into but not through the carpet pad.

~~The apparatus of claim 30, wherein the downwardly extending spike includes a thread on an outer surface thereof for threadably engaging the lower surface of the backing of the underlying substrate.~~

33. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 34 , wherein the torque receiving elements comprise, one or more grasping elements for grasping and applying

torque to the apparatus, to thereby facilitate threadably screwing the apparatus into the backing of the carpet.

34. (Previously presented) The apparatus of claim 32, wherein the central base member includes one or more torque receiving elements for applying torque to the apparatus, to thereby facilitate threadably screwing the apparatus into the backing of the carpet.

35. (New) An apparatus for securing a floor covering to an underlying carpet, the apparatus having a body for placement between the carpet and the floor covering, the body having upper and lower surfaces and a height which is less than the body's lateral extension, the lower surface having a lone spike projecting downwardly therefrom for penetrating the carpet, the spike having a thread on an outer surface of the spike for threadably engaging a lower surface of a backing of the carpet, the upper surface being provided with means for engaging the floor covering.

36. (New) The apparatus of claim 35, wherein the upper surface of the body includes a plurality of upwardly extending spikes for engaging the floor covering.

37. (New) The apparatus of claim 36, wherein the upper surface of the body includes an adhesive for bonding a lower surface of the floor covering to the upper surface of the body.

38. (New) The apparatus of claim 37, wherein the adhesive is covered by a removable protective membrane, that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.

39. (New) The apparatus of claim 1, further comprising a plurality of hooks extending upward from the upper surface of the body, and an anchor tab having a lower surface thereof including a plurality of mating hooks for engaging the hooks extending from the upper surface of the body, and an upper surface thereof including an adhesive for attachment of the anchor tab to the lower surface of the floor covering.

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40. (New) The apparatus of claim 39, further comprising a removable protective membrane covering the adhesive on the anchor tab, that is peeled off to expose the adhesive for attachment to the lower surface of the floor covering.